(54) Title: VIRTUAL NETWORK SYSTEM
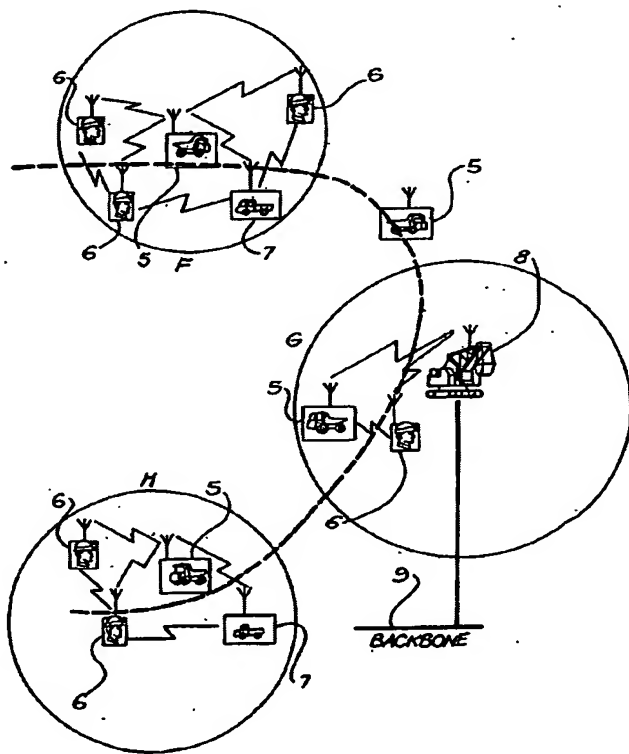
(57) Abstract: A virtual wireless computer network allows communication between a number of regions (F, G, H), which may be beyond normal wireless communication range, by carrying information between regions using mobile stations (5) which travel between regions. Each mobile station transmits and/or receives information by wireless communication to other stations within a region when it is in that region, to update both the stations in that region and the mobile station. One region may include a fixed station (8) hardwired into a backbone network (9). The network has particular application in a mining situation where the mobile stations may be haul trucks (5) carrying information between people 6 and light vehicles (7), with the fixed station at a crusher or shovel (8).

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